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# Editorial: Mother’s Day by the numbers

It was just over a century ago that the first Mother’s Day was officially recognized by the federal government. It began as a pair of local celebrations, which quickly expanded.

“Anna Jarvis organized the first Mother’s Day observances May 10, 1908 in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennslyvania,” stated a Thursday press release from the U.S. Census Bureau. “As the annual celebration became popular around the country, Jarvis became the driving force behind Mother’s Day and asked members of Congress to set aside a day to honor mothers. She succeeded in 1914, when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.”

For all they’ve done for us, the mothers in our lives should be celebrated every day, not just today. In the meantime, here are some statistics from the Census Bureau that give a snapshot of how mothers in America are living today:

• 43.5 million: Number of mothers between the ages of 15 and 50 in 2014. These mothers gave birth to 95.8 million children.

• 9.8 million: Number of single mothers living with children younger than age 18 in 2016, up from 7.7 million in 1985.

• 5 million: Number of stay-at-home moms in married-couple family groups in 2016.

• 3.98 million: Number of registered births in 2015, down less than 1 percent from 2014. Of this number, 229,715 were to teens ages 15 to 19.

• 3.9 million: Number of women between the ages of 15 and 50 in 2015 who had given birth in the past 12 months.

• 62.5: Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 in 2015, down 1 percent from 2014.

• 62.4: Percent of women ages 16 to 50 in the labor force in 2015 who had a birth in the past 12 months.

• 35.7: Percent of unmarried women ages 15 to 50 in 2015 who had a birth in the past 12 months. About 64.3 percent of women ages 15 to 50 who had a birth in the past 12 months were married.

• 31.8: Percent of women with a bachelor’s degree or higher who had given birth in the past 12 months.

• 22.3: Percent of women age 15 to 50 who have had two children. About 42.4 percent had no children, 17 percent had one, 11.7 percent had three, and about 6.8 percent had four or more.